



March 5, 2007

H.R. 376 – To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Floor Situation

H.R. 376 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Roy Blunt (R-MO) on January 10, 2007, and has not been considered by any committee in the 110th Congress.

H.R. 376 is expected to be considered on the floor on March 5, 2007.

**Note: During the 109th Congress, the text of H.R. 376 was included in S. 1829, which passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on December 12, 2006. The bill passed the Senate (without the text of H.R. 376) on September 29, 2006, by unanimous consent. The bill was not signed into law by the President.*

Summary

H.R. 376 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study relating to the First Battle of Newtonia in Newton County, Missouri, which occurred on September 30, 1862, and the Second Battle of Newtonia, which occurred on October 28, 1864, during the Missouri Expedition of Confederate General Sterling Price in September and October of 1864.

The special resource study should include: an evaluation of the national significance of the battlefields and related sites, an evaluation of the suitability, feasibility and potential impact of adding the battlefields and related sites as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a unit of the National Park System, as well as alternatives and cost estimates for preservation and protection of the battlefields.

The legislation requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report to Congress (containing the special resource study and any conclusions or recommendations) within three years of the date that funds are made available for the study. The report must be

submitted to the Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

Background

The First Battle of Newtonia occurred on September 30, 1862, during the American Civil War. Newtonia was one of the few battles during the Civil War in which Native Americans played a significant role on both sides.

The Second Battle of Newtonia occurred on October 28, 1864 as part of Major General Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of the American Civil War.

Today, most of the battlefield is held in private hands, and 20 acres are preserved by the Newtonia Battlefield Preservation Society.

Cost

H.R. 376 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Chris Vieson at (202) 226-2302.